

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor Terry Seitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

In the absence of Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm, Financial Coordinator Sharon Sander called the roll.

Mayor Terry Seitz	Present
Council members:	
Gregory Schnarr	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Absent
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Absent

Sander announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Six of the seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Seitz invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes.

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. January 21, 2015 regular common council meeting

A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to approve the minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Public hearing. Mayor Seitz opened the public hearing concerning the petition of Ross and Andrea Hartings to vacate part of an undeveloped street called Echo Drive.

A notice appeared in the Herald on January 31, 2015, was posted at city hall, and was faxed to the news media.

Brad Eckerle with Brosmer Land Surveying and representing the Hartings said part of Echo Drive is an unimproved right-of-way and is located south of State Road 56 and east of St. Charles Street. The Hartings own Lots 31 and 32 in O. Eckerle's West Heights Fourth Addition and want to build a house across these two lots. Eckerle said there is a sanitary sewer line in this area. When the matter was presented to the Utility Service Board, they recommended to the Common Council the vacation of a portion of Echo Drive, contingent upon receiving a 25-foot public utility and drainage easement for the sanitary sewer line in that area. Eckerle also said some people that live in residences that face State Road 56 use this right-of-way. He said it has been discussed to set up ingress/egress agreements with the adjoining property owners.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick said if the council chooses to vacate Echo Drive, they can maintain an ingress/egress easement which would allow other property owners to use.

Mayor Seitz then asked for comments from the public.

Len Lorey, 1211 Echo Drive, said he has been a resident of that area for over 60 years. There is a diagonal strip of property located between the south side of Echo Drive and the north side of his property. He wants to make sure that his property now and in the future has access to a road. To access the Lorey property, they enter Greenwood Drive from State Road 56 then go west on Echo Drive.

Eckerle said the Hartings only want to vacate Echo Drive along their property, not the portion near Lorey's property.

Ryan Gosman, 1235 W. 6th Street, said they access the back of their property from St. Charles Street onto this undeveloped portion of Echo Drive. He said he and other neighbors would like to continue having access to the back of their property.

Kabrick said if the area is vacated, adjacent property owners get one-half of the vacated street. It would then become a private driveway.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to close the public hearing. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-6 AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC STREET

This ordinance vacates a portion of Echo Drive in O. Eckerle's West Heights Fourth Addition. [petition by Ross and Andrea Hartings]

A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to have the ordinance read by title only. Motion carried 6-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-6 with a change in the language with respect to the legal description and with respect to ingress/egress agreements. Motion carried 6-0.

Update on mid-state corridor project. Hank Menke, a leader of the Midstate Corridor Group, reported what has been done on the Midstate Corridor project, formerly known as the I-67 project, since he last reported to the council. Because work and promotion must continue, Menke said he plans to request more money from the city as well as from Huntingburg and Dubois County. The private sector will also be contacted for money.

Mark Schroeder, also a member of the group, said the private sector is in full support of this project because if Dubois County does not have a more direct access to I-69, economic development will probably shift and go elsewhere.

Utility Service Board. General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on February 17, 2015. A copy of the Utility Service Board minutes is supplied to each council member.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-3 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1995-12, THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA

This ordinance amends the following policies in the City of Jasper Employee Handbook: Policy 301 "Employee Benefits", Policy 307 "Sick Leave Benefits", Policy 314 "Education Training Assistance & Business Travel Expenses", Policy 403 "Paydays", Policy 680 "Family and Medical Leave", Policy 708 "Resignation, Discharge and Termination", and Policy 714 "Drug Testing". The policy changes are effective March 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Thomas Schmidt to have the ordinance read by title only. Motion carried 6-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member David Prechtel and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-3. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-4 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1995-12, THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA

This ordinance amends Policy 305 “Holidays” in the City of Jasper Employee Handbook to add Martin Luther King Jr Day and Presidents’ Day to the holiday schedule. The policy is effective January 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to have the ordinance read by title only. Motion carried 6-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-4. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-5 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-54 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE JASPER DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION”

This ordinance establishes fees for “Chocolate, Wine and Dine” train excursions and sets discounted rates for youth golfers at Ruxer Golf Course.

A motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member Thomas Schmidt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member David Prechtel and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to have the ordinance read by title only. Motion carried 6-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2015-5. Motion carried 6-0.

Appointment to wage determination committee. City Attorney Renee Kabrick said the Southwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council and Jasper residents Matt Leinenbach and Mark Clery filed an injunction against the City of Jasper based on a decision made at the wage determination hearing for the Worrell Drive storm sewer project. On Monday, the Stormwater Board will decide how to proceed. Kabrick also said it appears that if the City decides to have a new hearing, the case will be dismissed. If there is a new hearing, the council needs to appoint a member to the wage determination committee.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to authorize Dave Hurm to represent the City of Jasper on the wage determination committee if they have another hearing for the Worrell Drive storm sewer project. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 18th day of March, 2015.

**Mayor Terry Seitz,
Presiding Officer**

Attest: _____
Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer